



**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division

Waste  
Prevention

Resource  
Recovery

Waste  
Disposal

# King County SWD School Program

Classroom Education and Project Support

Donna Miscolta, Program Manager

September 16, 2016

# Program goals

Goal	Desired outcome
Teach students importance of reducing waste and recycling.	Extend life of landfill.
Teach students proper recycling and ways to increase recycling.	Increase recycling rate at school.



# Program elements

- Assembly – elementary
- Classroom workshops – elementary and secondary
- Green teams – elementary and secondary
- Print and online materials – elementary and secondary



# Assembly

## Key messages

- Reduce waste.
- Sort correctly.
- Take personal responsibility.

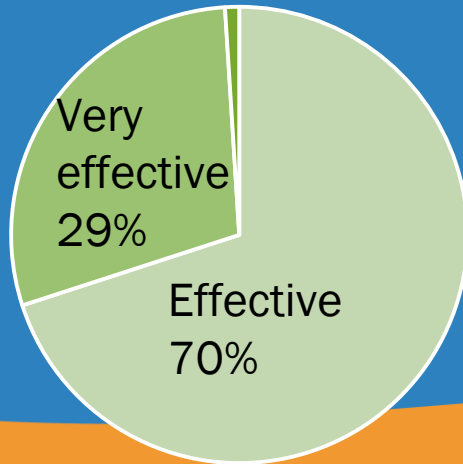
*For intermediate grades*

Fewer greenhouse gases are produced when we consume less, reuse what we have, and recycle and compost more.

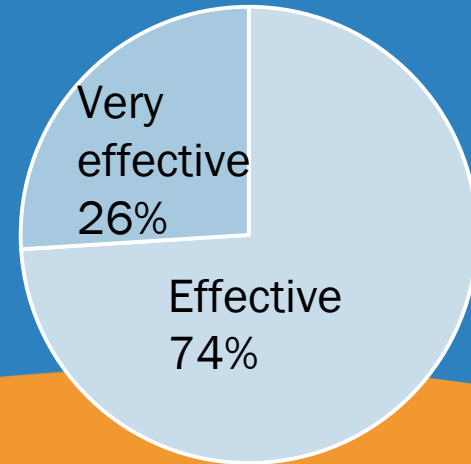


# Assembly results for 2015-2016 school year

Effectiveness in educating how  
to reduce and recycle



Effectiveness in educating on  
importance of reduce and recycle





# Elementary workshops

- Environmental Leadership
- Garbology
- Habitat Stewardship
- Healthy Habitat
- Our Climate, R Choices
- Recycling Leadership
- Rethink and Reuse
- Recycling Basics and Beyond



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# Elementary workshops results for 2015-2016 school year

No. schools	46
No. districts	13
No. deliveries	162
No. students	3,765

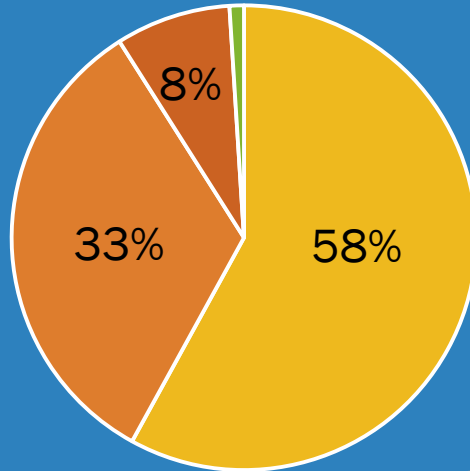


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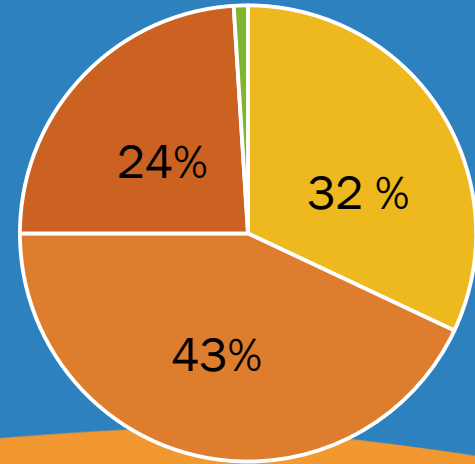
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# Elementary workshops results for 2015-2016 school year

Students better understand resource  
conservation



Students likely to change  
behavior





# Secondary workshops

- Biodiversity in Our World
- Biospheres
- Consumption Junction
- Earth Impact
- Food for Thought
- Four Rs for Our Climate
- Let's Talk Trash

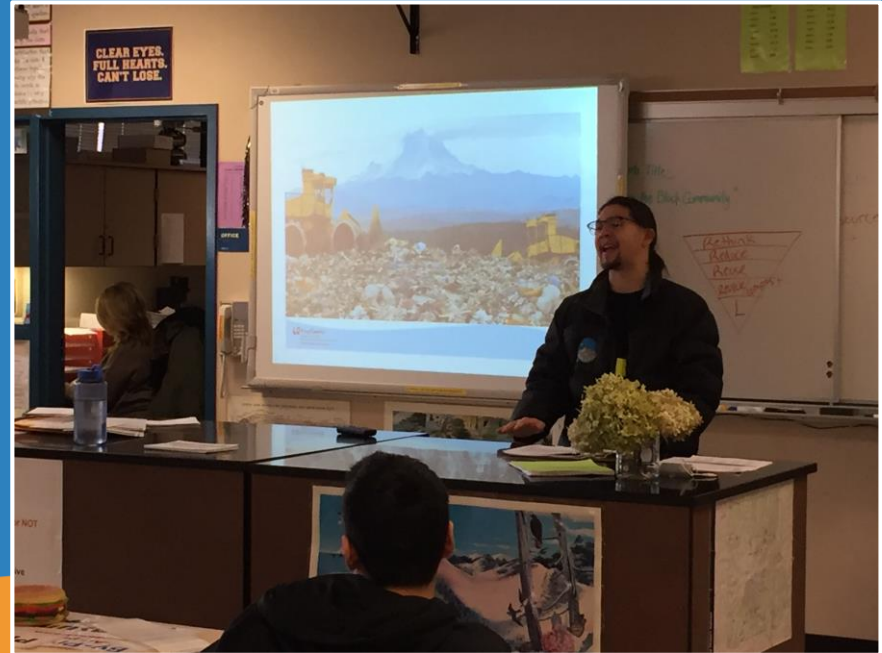


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# Secondary workshops results for 2015-2016 school year

No. schools	42
No. districts	15
No. deliveries	470
No. students	13,963

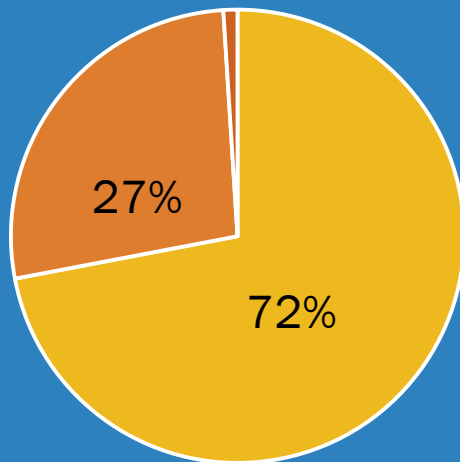


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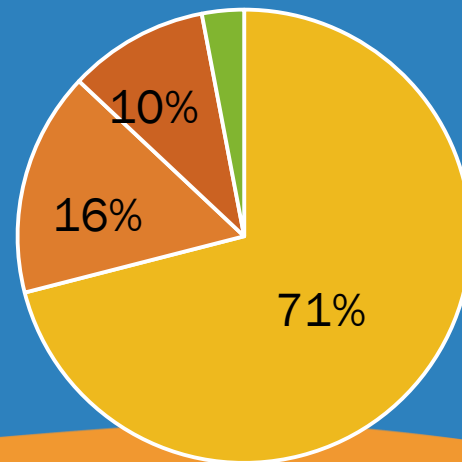
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# Secondary workshops results for 2015-2016 school year

Enhanced understanding



Plan to conduct follow-up



# Green teams

## Helping students put learning into action

- Phone and email assistance
- In-person consultations
- Workshops
- Mini-grants
- Aprons for lunchroom monitors
- Recognition and prizes

Projects include waste-free lunch days, education campaigns, garden composting systems.



# Green team totals for 2015-2016 school year

	No. teams	No. schools	No. students
Elementary	61	50	2,953
Secondary	32	30	1,882





# Print and online materials

- Activity guides for teachers
- Assembly discussion guide
- 4R Home Survey
- Waste prevention and recycling take-home survey
- Green team campaigns





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# King County Green Schools Program

**Dale Alekel, Program Manager**

**September 16, 2016**

# Program mission

To provide King County schools and school districts with tools and support to

- Initiate or expand conservation practices.
- Involve the whole school community in environmental stewardship.
- Operate environmentally efficient facilities.



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# Program levels

## Level One

Waste Reduction & Recycling

## Level Two

Energy Conservation

## Level Three

Water Conservation &  
Pollution Prevention

*Beyond Level Three*

Sustaining Green School



## Other program areas

- Green building
- Healthy schools
- Litter reduction
- Transportation



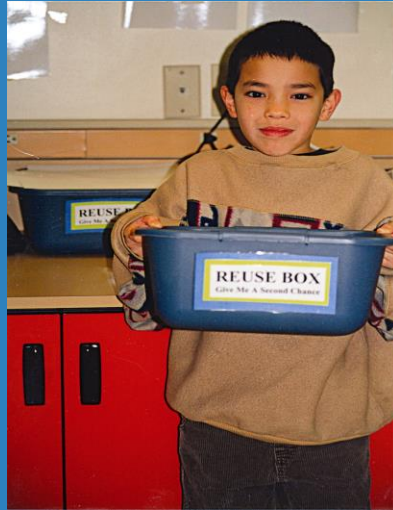
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# Best Practices Guides

All program levels emphasize waste reduction and recycling



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# Program benefits

- Assistance and resources
- Opportunities for student learning and leadership
- Cost savings
- Recognition
  - Banner
  - Certificate
  - Website success story
  - Press release



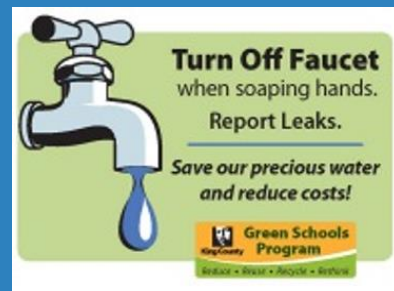
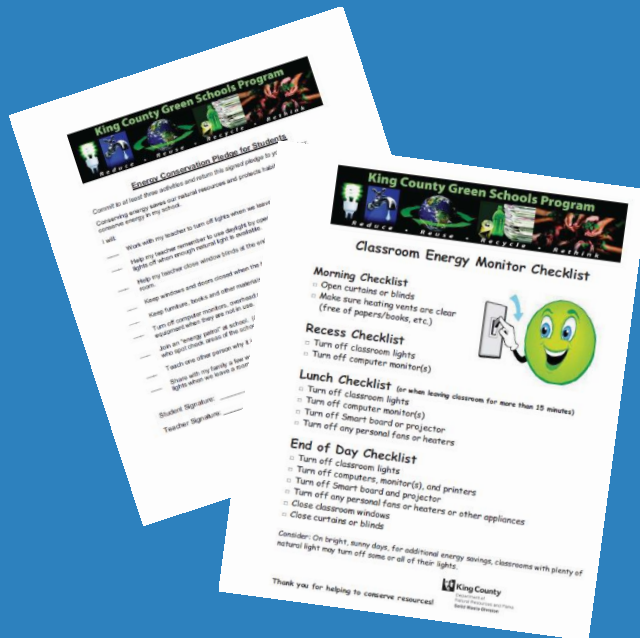
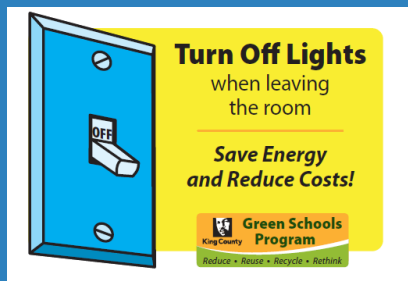
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# Program tools – waste reduction and recycling



# Program tools - energy and water conservation



# Participation, recognition as of June 2016

- 13 school districts participate – 5 received recognition
- 237 schools - **47%** of K-12 King County schools - in 34 cities, unincorporated areas
- 204 schools with 144,390 students assisted in 2015-16

Level One	214 schools
Level Two	126 schools
Level Three	93 schools
Sustaining Green Schools	46 schools



# 2015-16 recycling rate data

Helping to reach the county's 70 percent recycling goal and lengthen life of landfill

- 124 schools collected compostable materials
- Schools reduce solid waste and expand recycling

## Recycling rates for 159 schools

No. of schools	Recycling rates achieved
22 schools	Less than 40%, but increased by at least 15%
36 schools	40% - 49% recycling rate
59 schools	50% - 59% recycling rate
42 schools	60% - 87% recycling rate





# 2015-16 assistance highlights

- 22 new schools joined program
  - Equity and Social Justice: 14 new schools (63%) from South King County
- 2,260 hours of assistance provided
  - 121 schools visits  
plus telephone/email assistance
- 17 school district trainings



# 2016 program participant survey results

## Districts

- 100% satisfied or very satisfied with program representative
- 100% would recommend the program to other districts

## Schools

- 94% satisfied or very satisfied with program representative (*none selected “dissatisfied”*)
- 98% would recommend the program to other schools

### US Green Ribbon School District awards

- Issaquah School District (2016)
- Tahoma School District (2015)
- Kent School District (2013)

### US Green Ribbon School awards

- 10 King County Green Schools (2012 – 2016)



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